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NO REFRIGERATORS UNTIL GERMANY'S DEFEAT, PREDICTS WPB IN YEAR-END REPORT ON PROSPECTS FOR CIVILIAN GOODS PRODUCTION IN 1945

It is "unlikely" that production of household mechanical refrigerators will be resumed until victory in Europe is achieved, the War Production Board declares in a year-end statement on the 1945 outlook for the production of civilian goods.

There are now 45,000 household mechanical refrigerators in the stockpile from which withdrawals are made for only the most essential needs, WPB said.

The government agency stated that applications from 57 manufacturers to turn out small electrical appliances had been approved, but that chances for the reconversion of the manufacturers of heavy electrical goods were "remote."

A production of 375,000 all-metal ice refrigerators is planned for 1945. Of these, 55,000 per quarter will go to civilians—under present plans.

Production of 35,000 domestic electric ranges per quarter (as reported in the Jan. 1 issue of the News) has been set up as the 1945 program. Of these, 35% will go to the armed forces and the National Housing Agency, and the rest for institutions and individual consumers.

Orders have already been issued for the production of 313,492 vacuum cleaners in 1945, but manpower and material shortages are likely to delay production, WPB intimates.

About 700,000 to 800,000 electric irons were estimated to have been assembled in 1944 out of the two million authorized to be produced by 32 manufacturers. A 1945 program has been established.

One of the gloomiest views taken is that on furniture. Improvement in the supply of lumber for furniture production is unlikely until the end of the war in the Pacific as well as in Europe, said WPB.

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE GROUP ASKS FOR ADVANCE MATERIALS

Members of the Electrical Appliance Industry Advisory Committee recommended that WPB allow their industry to order in advance, on AA-3 ratings, material that will be needed for civilian production after the defeat of Germany.

Indicating that makers of domestic electrical appliances expect to maintain postwar employment at 25% above 1940 levels, IAC members urged that this preparatory step toward reconversion be taken as soon as military considerations permit.

WPB officials suggested that industry members take advantage of WPB regulations designed to aid manufacturers in preparing for reconversion: PR-23, authorizing the development of experimental models, and PR-24 authorizing the unrated ordering of machine tools for future delivery.

In relation to PR-25 ("spot authorization") procedure, IAC members recommended that:

Future authorizations, although granted by the WPB regional offices, be specifically approved by Washington.

Special PR-25 consideration be given, in field offices, to manufacturers who were granted permission to make electric irons in 1944, but must carry the un-produced portion of their quotas into 1945.

CROSLEY TO HAVE 'EXCLUSIVE' CABINET AND SINK LINE; BONNEVILLE IS MANAGER

The line of steel kitchen cabinets and cabinet sinks that Crosley Corp. will introduce "will incorporate an exclusive feature and will be produced from new and exclusive tools and dies," declares J. H. Rasmussen, general sales manager.

"With this new line, we plan to introduce a new technique in the merchandising of kitchen cabinets—a technique which will simplify greatly the stocking and merchandising of this equipment," Mr. Rasmussen states.

E. A. Bonneville, former Crosley regional sales manager, has been appointed kitchen cabinet product manager, it is announced. Before joining Crosley, Mr. Bonneville had been associated with the Times Appliance Co. of New York City for 14 years, having been vice president in charge of the appliance dealer division when he left to join Crosley.

GOVERNMENT SURPLUS ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR HARDWARE DEALERS

Hardware dealers can build up depleted stocks to a certain extent through purchases of government surplus property, according to F. A. Mapes, regional director of the Treasury Department's Office of Surplus Property in Chicago.

"Large quantities" of carriage bolts, stove bolts, ball joints, lock washers, harness rings, rubber life rafts, compasses, and other items are available for sale to established dealers at OPA ceilings. Eligible to buy through the Chicago office are dealers in Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota.

SEES CHANGES IN FARM FREEZER CONSTRUCTION AND SALES TERMS

New postwar designs in farm freezers may eliminate the waste space near the top, where warmer temperatures accumulate, and may include indicators to warn users of power failure and the installation of drains to take care of water accumulation during defrosting or power failure.

These constructional changes were discussed by refrigerated equipment manufacturers who met in Washington recently.

The matter of time payments for farm freezers and other farm equipment also deserves special treatment, it was pointed out by D. W. Teare, in charge of the Consumers Equipment Unit, Applications and Loans Division, Rural Electrification Administration.

* Monthly payments are not practical, he stated, because farmers' income most often is realized in lump sums a few times a year. Most of them operate on an actually small cash income, Mr. Teare added. The cost of electric current alone for a fully electrified farm home can take up to a third of the average farmer's actual cash income.

WASHER ORDER AMENDED TO PERMIT 'SPOT' PRODUCTION OF MACHINES AND PARTS

The domestic laundry equipment order, L-6, has been amended to conform with recent changes in Priorities Regulation 25 ("spot authorization" procedure).

Prior to Nov. 21, 1944, neither Direction 1 to PR-25 nor L-6 provided for the production or assembly of washing machines under the "spot authorization" procedure. Under Direction 1 to PR-25, as amended Nov. 21, all types of domestic laundry equipment, including washing machines, are subject to "spot authorization." L-6, as amended Dec. 26, likewise provides that manufacturers of any type of domestic laundry equipment may apply for "spot authorizations."

As before, any laundry equipment, except ironing machines, that may be made under "spot authorization" may be sold only to fill military orders, as authorized by WPB.

The amended L-6 states specifically that the restrictions imposed by the order on manufacturers' inventories of repair parts for laundry equipment do not apply to parts produced under "spot authorization." The order permits each manufacturer to have in inventory at any one time as many of any type of part intended for repair purposes as he sold in the second preceding quarter.

FIRMS WHO VIOLATE MANPOWER CEILINGS CAN LOSE PRIORITIES AND ALLOCATIONS

Following the statement on manpower ceilings issued by Director of War Mobilization and Reconstruction James Byrnes, the WPB has issued Priorities Regulation No. 26 which puts "teeth" into the War Manpower Commission's employment ceilings and hiring regulations.

This regulation authorizes the withdrawal or modification of material priorities or allocations when WPB determines that materials or facilities are not being used most effectively as a result of failure to comply with war manpower programs.

The procedure consists of WMC certifying to WPB that its ceilings or regulations are not being met, whereupon an investigation will be made by WPB, and *all* priorities and allocations—both those already granted and those to be granted—may be withdrawn.

Following is the text of the regulation:

(a) *Priorities and allocations may be withdrawn or modified if WMC regulations are not complied with:* Any priorities or allocations granted by or under the authority of the WPB may be withdrawn or modified at any time when the WPB makes a finding that materials or facilities are not being used most effectively for the prosecution of the war as a result of a failure to comply with an employment ceiling or hiring regulation of the War Manpower Commission.

"(b) *Procedure:* Priorities or allocations will be withdrawn or modified under this regulation only after the WMC has certified to the WPB that an employer has refused to comply with an employment ceiling or hiring regulation within a reasonable time after he has been notified of his failure to do so. If, in the opinion of the WPB, there is reason to believe that materials or facilities are not being used most effectively for the prosecution of the war as a result of the failure to comply, it will institute proceedings before one of its Compliance Commissioners to determine whether there is proof of this, and will give the employer appropriate notice and opportunity for a hearing.

"(c) *What priorities and allocations are covered by this regulation:* This regulation applies to all kinds of priorities and allocations which are granted either before or after this regulation is issued, including preference ratings, allotment numbers or symbols, and directions, authorizations, or grants of appeals to deliver or receive material or to manufacture products or to use facilities."

BRASS MILLS ORDERED TO KEEP CIVILIAN PRODUCTION AT A MINIMUM

In a further effort to increase the production of ammunition brass during the early part of 1945, WPB has announced that all brass mills must notify the agency at least five days in advance before scheduling any outstanding Z-1 orders.

Under Direction 58 to CMP Regulation No. 1, issued Dec. 26, brass mills are required to give WPB advance notice of intent to schedule the Z-1 (deferred civilian allotment) orders, in order to channel this capacity if possible into additional production of brass mill products for the small arms ammunition and artillery programs of the armed services.

This new direction follows a recent announcement by WPB's Copper Division that the Requirements Committee has authorized the review of all outstanding CMP allotments of brass mill products with a view to reducing civilian demands to a minimum. Further relaxations of limitation and conservation orders affecting brass mill products have been definitely shelved, WPB said.

CANADIANS FORM CENTRAL AGENCY FOR ENTIRE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY

A new organization which will act as a central agency for the entire Canadian electrical industry—the Canadian Electrical Manufacturers' Association—was formed at a recent meeting in Toronto.

The association has taken temporary offices at 302 Bay St., Toronto, with Roy D. Kerby as general manager. Mr. Kerby previously was executive assistant to the president of Research Enterprises, Ltd., Leaside, Ont., and before that was assistant to the president of General Motors of Canada, Oshawa, Ont.

Aims of the association are: (1) to improve production, enlarge distribution, and increase efficiency of electrical products; (2) to promote standardization; (3) to collect and disseminate information relating to the industry; (4) to cooperate with legislative committees, government departments, and other bodies.

REGIONAL OPA OFFICE TO PASS ON REQUESTS FOR SIMPLIFICATION OF SERVICE PRICE

DETERMINATION

Regional offices of the OPA have been given authority to act on applications from sellers of services requesting simplification of the method of determining their ceiling prices.

This action makes no other changes in the existing provision that sellers of a variety of services who price under six specified regulations may make application for permission to determine ceilings for all services under only one regulation.

The decentralization move, effective Dec. 30, 1944, permits Regional Administrators, in turn, to delegate the same authority to OPA district offices, through which it is intended applications should be filed in the future. The move should facilitate action on these applications.

Since Oct. 18, 1943, suppliers of services whose ceilings are established by more than one of six specified regulations could apply to OPA's national office for authority to determine their ceilings by using only one of the regulations. The aim has been to simplify price control for services coming under six different regulations, some or all of which might be regularly offered by one supplier.

The six regulations are: General Maximum Price Regulation; Maximum Price Regulation 134 (Construction and Road Maintenance Equipment Rental Prices and Charges for Operating and Maintenance or Repair and Rebuilding Services); Maximum Price Regulation 136 (Machines and Parts and Machinery Services); Revised Maximum Price Regulation 165 (Services); Maximum Price Regulation 246 (Manufacturers' and Wholesale Prices for Farm Equipment), and Revised Maximum Regulation 251 (Construction Services and Sales of Installed Building Materials).

There are two limitations to this authority: (1) No authorization may be granted to apply the provisions of Revised Maximum Price Regulation 251 to services subject to any of the other five regulations. (2) In the case of suppliers subject to Maximum Price Regulation 134 or Maximum Price Regulation 136, the authority may be granted only by OPA's national office if the supplier's sales of services under either of these two regulations exceeded \$75,000 for the calendar year 1942 or for the fiscal year ending in 1942.

DEPARTMENT STORES INDICATE THEY MAY SPEND

\$62 MILLION ON AIR CONDITIONING POSTWAR

Retail stores of the nation plan to spend in the vicinity of \$62,000,000 on air conditioning equipment after the war, according to a survey conducted by the National Retail Dry Goods Association among its member stores.

Made by the association's postwar planning committee, of which Saul Cohn, president of City Stores Co., is chairman, the survey covered about 10% of the group's membership.

Findings of the survey showed that merchants are planning to spend more than \$1,000,000,000 for store modernization and improvements in the postwar period. Of the total, it was estimated, 6.2% will be for air conditioning.

SEE LITTLE HOPE OF EASING CIVILIAN RADIO TUBE SHORTAGE

Scarcely half enough radio receiving tubes have been available during the last two years to replace those worn out in civilian receiving sets, and the shortage is expected to continue until several months after the defeat of Germany and Japan, says WPB.

During 1944, replacement tubes available to civilians cannot exceed 19,000,000, as against demands exceeding 36,000,000, the division said. The 19,000,000 tubes should enable home owners to maintain at least one radio receiver in operation, WPB said. No tubes for new home radio receivers have been manufactured since 1942 owing to military demands on the electronics industry.

The present schedule for the production of civilian receiving tubes in the first quarter of 1945 is set tentatively at about 2,000,000 a month, an increase of about 500,000 tubes a month over past WPB authorization. However, the estimated monthly production can be attained only if increased labor is obtained and military demands do not increase, WPB said. If conditions are anticipated correctly, it is hoped that civilian tubes may be produced at the rate of 4,000,000 a month within about four months after "Victory in Europe" Day, the agency added.